



Illustrator in Residence  
Drawing Words Exhibition & Studio

## Drawing Words – Artist Residency 2019

Introduction to Seven Stories .....	3
Drawing Words Exhibition .....	3
Drawing Words Studio .....	3
Illustrator in Residence .....	4
The Opportunity.....	4
Person Specification.....	4
Activity Specification.....	5
Important information.....	5
Schedule.....	5
Budget.....	5
Applications.....	6
How to Apply.....	6
Interviews and Selection Process.....	6
Useful Links .....	6



## Introduction to Seven Stories

Seven Stories is the UK's national home for children's books - dedicated to saving, sharing and celebrating exceptional children's stories and illustrations, for the enjoyment and inspiration of current and future generations. We're based in Newcastle upon Tyne, a large and vibrant city in the North East of England, around 250 miles from London. Each year we welcome 65,000 people to our lively visitor centre and reach 30,000 young people through our learning and outreach programme, including schools and families living in areas of low cultural engagement.

Seven Stories prioritises collections-powered, immersive and interactive arts experiences at the heart of exhibitions, learning and outreach offers, along with equality of access to transformational arts and literature learning. Seven Stories aims to ensure programmes inspire and support a new generation of creative practitioners to explore the past and future of children's storytelling.

## Drawing Words Exhibition

Seven Stories will host the British Council's *Drawing Words* exhibition from 15 July 2019 - 5 January 2020. The exhibition has been curated by UK Children's Laureate Lauren Child, creator of *Charlie and Lola*, *Clarice Bean* and many other favourite picture books. It includes reproductions of artwork by ten contemporary UK illustrators and a film with short pieces to camera by each illustrator. Seven Stories will expand the core exhibition by adding some original artwork, on loan from the illustrators and from the Seven Stories archive.

## Drawing Words Studio

Adjoining the exhibition there will be a creative studio space, designed particularly with and for children under 10 and their families.

The space will inspire and facilitate a range of imaginative and creative responses to the themes of the exhibition and Lauren Child's passionately held belief that it's vital for children to daydream and stare out of the window:

*'You can't come up with anything without a certain amount of boredom, because boredom is the beginning of invention. Solving problems and letting your mind wander and find the edges of something. It's how you get to an inspired place and become creative.'*

The studio space will be a hub for a full programme of drop-in and scheduled activity during the run of the exhibition.

## Illustrator in Residence

Seven Stories is being supported by the British Council to host a Ghanaian illustrator in residence for 5 days in October 2019, during the Drawing Words exhibition.

October is one of Seven Stories busiest periods, with over 4,000 children, young people and families expected to visit between Saturday 19 October and Sunday 3 November 2019. The broad theme for these two weeks of activity will be 'Bones' and will include skeletons and bodies, witches, wizards and ghosts, (family friendly) fear and horror. Activity which will be taking place includes Skeleton Jazz Dance Parties and After-Life Bone Drawing (with animal bones collection from Great North Museum).

## The Opportunity

You will populate the Drawing Words Studio with drop-in and planned event activity, bringing your unique and distinctive approach. The residency will provide you with skills and network development opportunities, including:

- Working alongside Seven Stories creative practitioners on book-inspired activity for children and young people
- Meeting and shadowing Seven Stories creative practitioners, observing delivery of Storytimes and other programmed activity
- Opportunity to showcase your own work to Seven Stories audiences within the Drawing Words Studio
- Interacting with families and young people in the Drawing Words Studio
- Profile and PR through Seven Stories blog posts and social media

## Person Specification

You will develop and deliver a range of work, with support from the Seven Stories team. You will:

- Be an illustrator resident in Ghana aged 18-35 years old
- Have relevant creative practice in illustration for children
- Be keen to share your work with a new audience and learn new skills
- Have experience of working with children, young people and families on participatory projects
- Bring your own ideas for creative activity and workshops, including repeat engagement with children, young people and families over the course of the residency
- Be open to new ideas and opportunities for collaboration and responsive to feedback
  
- Be able to work both independently, and as part of the wider Seven Stories team
- Be able to work at speed and potentially on a large scale
- Have a good level of written and spoken English

## Activity Specification

The activities you design should respond to the theme of 'Bones' (as described above). Your work should communicate the value of drawing and illustration, building on Lauren Child's invitation to children to spend more time daydreaming and staring out of the window to resource their creativity and imagination.

Structured activities for children, young people and families must include:

- Drop-in activities for children (and families) aged 2-10
- Event/workshops for children (and families) aged 5-10; this could be one activity repeated multiple times, or different activities to support the creation of a larger piece of work across multiple sessions with input from different children and families.
- Ink & Drink - Art/Illustration workshop (ages 18+) for students and professionals; one 90-120 minute workshop. This could be relatively informal (see Ink & Drink information in the Useful Links section).

## Important information

- Hours of access to the space will be 9.00-17:00 (it may be possible to extend these).
- Public opening hours will be 10.00-17.00
- There will be original artwork on display in the adjoining exhibition; you must be sensitive to this in planning activity for the studio. Carefully facilitated 'messy' sessions are possible, however materials cannot be left unsupervised (space to lock materials away will be available). Misting and/or smoke machines cannot be used in this space due to humidity.

## Schedule

The 5 day residency will take place between Saturday 26 October and Sunday 3 November 2019. These two weeks cover North East England's autumn half-term school holidays.

Sample schedule:

Monday	Arrive Newcastle
Tuesday	Induction, including collections visit, set-up and shadow Seven Stories Storytime
Wednesday	Events, drop-in activity and Storytime
Thursday	Networking plus Ink & Drink evening with Illustrators (professional and amateur)
Friday	Day off
Saturday	Events, drop-in activity and Storytime
Sunday	Events, drop-in activity and Storytime
Monday	Depart Newcastle

## Budget

- £600 Residence Fee
- £800 Flights
- £100 UK Travel
- £420 Accommodation
- £210 Per Diems
- £100 Visa
- £250 Materials Budget

## Applications

### How to Apply

To apply for this residency please send a CV and examples of your previous work showing relevant creative practice in children's illustration and storytelling as well as examples of how you have worked with children, young people and families on participatory projects.

Please also provide a maximum of 500 words which includes:

- Initial interpretation of Seven Stories theme for October, 'Bones', with consideration to the *Drawing Words* exhibition.
- Proposal for activities as outlined in this document.

Applications must be submitted to [John.Beattie@sevenstories.org.uk](mailto:John.Beattie@sevenstories.org.uk) by Friday 19 July.

### Interviews and Selection Process

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview (via skype or telephone call) by Friday 2 August.

## Useful Links

Drawing Words Exhibition

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/arts/drawing-words>

Lauren Child

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2017/august/imagination-and-fun-lauren-child-dreams-big-as-the-new-childrens-laureate/>

Previous Residency (Piotr Karski)

<https://www.sevenstories.org.uk/blog/piotr-karski-artist-residency>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/seven-stories-the-national-centre-for-childrens-books/piotr-karski-art-exhibition/1454507874651907/>

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Ny3TG-3N975oS2znkdOA4mKL-zu\\_co7I](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Ny3TG-3N975oS2znkdOA4mKL-zu_co7I)

Seven Stories Events Programme

<https://www.sevenstories.org.uk/whats-on>

Ink & Drink

<https://www.newcastlegateshead.com/whats-on/ink-and-drink-with-chris-riddell-p837101>